In re Patent Application of:
ROY ET AL.
Serial No. **10/777,731**
Filed: **FEBRUARY 12, 2004**
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REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the present application. Independent Claims 1, 12, 18, 24, and 28 have been amended to more clearly define over the prior art. In view of the amendments and arguments present herein, it is submitted that all claims are patentable over the prior art.

I. The Claimed Invention

The invention is directed to a communications system. For example, amended independent Claim 1 recites that the system comprises a plurality of data storage devices, each using at least one of a plurality of operating protocols, with at least one data storage device <u>communicating</u> using multiple operating protocols. There are a plurality of mobile wireless communications devices for accessing the at least one data storage device and each <u>communicating</u> using at least one of the plurality of operating protocols. Furthermore, a protocol interface device comprises a front-end proxy module for communicating with the plurality of mobile wireless communications devices using respective operating protocols. The protocol interface device further comprises a protocol engine module for communicating with the plurality of data storage devices using respective operating protocols, and selecting a desired operating protocol for communicating with the at least one data storage device from the multiple operating protocols.

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Independent Claim 12 is directed to the protocol interface device as in Claim 1. Independent Claim 18 is directed to a protocol interface device for interfacing a plurality of communications devices with a plurality of data storage devices. Independent Claim 24 is directed to a method counterpart to Claim 12, and independent Claim 28 is directed to a corresponding computer readable medium to Claim 24.

II. The Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 12, 18, 24, and 28 over Poor et al considered alone. Poor et al. discloses an intermediate server or system having knowledge of application program protocols used by the application programs on a user's wireless device. The intermediate server receives information communicated from the device via a transport level protocol. This information is subsequently transmitted by the intermediate server to a remote server or system that services the application or program in use by that person, in accordance with the appropriate single communication protocol used by that remote server or system.

The Examiner contended that operating using multiple operating protocols could mean operating using any protocol used in the operation of the data storage device, and is not limited to the various communication protocols that could be used. In view of the Examiner's helpful comments, independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite at least one data storage device communicating using multiple operating protocols and a plurality

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of mobile wireless communications devices for accessing the at least one data storage device, each mobile wireless communications device communicating using at least one of the plurality of operating protocols.

Poor et al. does not disclose at least one data storage device communicating using multiple operating protocols. While Poor et al. does disclose different servers each communicating using its own different protocol (e.g., IMAP, POP) and a server configuration file containing database entries for each protocol (which include the protocols themselves, e.g. how to communicate with a POP server). This reference does not disclose or fairly suggest that any of these servers could or should communicate using more than one operating protocol.

Moreover, independent Claim 1 recites a protocol engine module for communicating with the plurality of data storage devices using respective operating protocols and selecting a desired operating protocol for communicating with the at least one data storage device from the multiple operating protocols. Poor et al. fails to disclose this claimed feature. As explained above, the at least one data storage device of independent Claim 1 communicates using multiple operating protocols, whereas the servers of Poor et al. each communicate using a single operating protocol. Since each of the individual servers of Poor et al. do not communicate using multiple operating protocols, the intermediate server cannot select which one of multiple protocols to use to communicate with a data storage device capable of communicating using multiple operating protocols, as the

intermediate server is only configured to select which single
operating protocol to use to communicate with a server using a
single operating protocol.

Accordingly, independent Claim 1 is patentable over
Poor et al. Independent Claims 12, 18, 24, and 28 contain similar
recitations, have been similarly amended, and are therefore
patentable for the same reason. The dependent claims, which
recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable
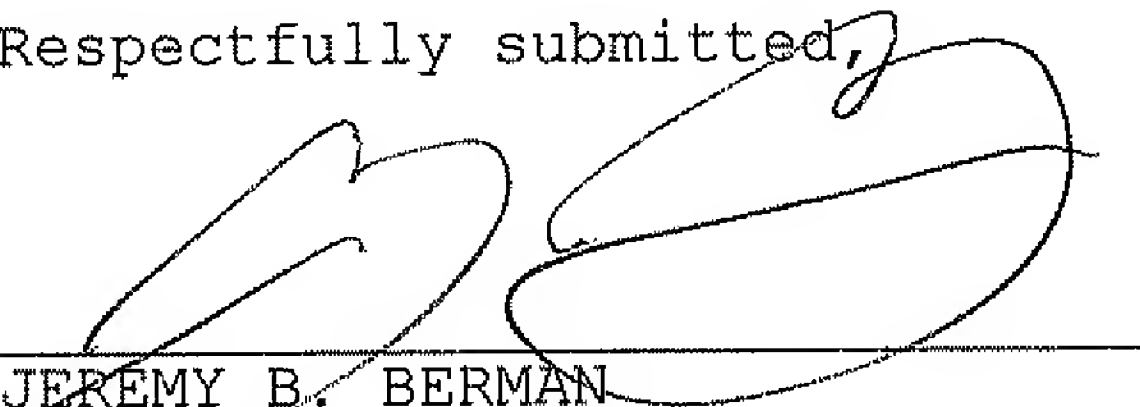and require no further discussion herein.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments provided herein, it is submitted that all the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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